

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 5, Issue 11

April 2015

Employee Annual Banquet

The City of Marion Employee Recognition banquet was held on March 17th and several awards were presented including revealing the 2014 Employee of the Year.



Mayor Bobby L. Davis stated that this award recognizes one City Employee who has excelled in his or her work in the past year and is the highest honor of the program. A committee is appointed by the Mayor to receive nominations from Department Heads and review the work of each employee nominated. This committee meets to select whom they believe has made the most significant contribution to the city. Once again a deserving individual has been chosen and I wholeheartedly agree with their decision. Tonight it is my privilege to ask our **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR, CHRIS JOHNSON**, to come forward. **Chris** was hired as a fulltime fire engineer with the City of Marion Fire Department in February 1993 and has been a member of the Marion Rescue Squad for 22 years. Chris now serves as a Senior Engineer. In November 2014, while eating breakfast after his shift ended, Chris responded to an emergency situation involving an infant. His quick response saved the life of a 6 month old child who was choking. Chris, was named “November Em-

ployee of the Month”. He is always ready, willing and able to lend a helping hand and the City is happy to have such an exceptional employee.

Retirees – **Lt Walker Davis**, began working for the Marion Police Department in 1991 where he began his law enforcement career by walking the downtown beat. He rose through the ranks to Lieutenant, also serving as the department’s Training Officer. Lt. Davis was named **Policeman of the Year in 2011**. His dedication to the citizens of Marion is to be commended and he will be greatly missed. **Calvin Legette**, worked for the City of Marion from 1986 until 2014, helping the city to maintain Marion’s “pretty little town” reputation. He was tasked with collecting large household items and yard debris to keep Marion beautiful. We appreciate his hard work and dedication and wish him well in his retirement.

Public Service Award for outstanding public service to the City of Marion, was presented by Mayor Bobby L. Davis. The recipient of this award is selected by an Anonymous Committee. The award honors people who have unselfishly given their time, energy and resources to help better the city. Mayor Davis stated as in years past, a Committee made up of City employees, has chosen a most deserving person to receive this year’s Public Service Award. It was a very daunting task for the committee as there are so many folks dedicated to the betterment of our City. This individual can be seen all over town; always expounding on how great our City is and what we can do to improve our quality of life. He is a true leader and is involved with many City committees and doesn’t mind the hard work it takes to be successful. He is also the driving force behind numerous events to get both local businesses and residents involved in all things “Marion”. His love for the City of Marion and its rich history is evident in everything he does. We are proud to present the Public Service Award to **AL BLAKE**.



Fireman of the Year Award was presented by Fire Chief Trey Cooper to Chris Johnson.



Chief’s Award was also presented by Interim Chief Dewayne Tennie to Almeta Mullins.



Police Officer of the Year Award was presented by Interim Chief Dewayne Tennie to Bobby Davis

Continue on page two.

For others photos visit the city’s Facebook page.

Don’t forget to Vote!

TUESDAY APRIL 14TH

**Marion’s registered voters go to the polls.
Questions?
Call the Marion County Voter Registration
and Election Commission at 423-8268.**

Continue from front page:

Service Awards were given to the following:
Five Years – Sgt. Derrick Smith (Police Department), Municipal Judge Patricia Speth (Police Department), Richard Moody (Sanitation Department) and Cpl. Carl Stokes (Police Department).

Ten Years – Ronald Atkinson (Councilmember), Jimmy Collins (Fire Department) and Robert Taylor (Street Department).

Fifteen Years – Frank Page (Recreation Department), Sgt. Marilyn Rogers (Police Department), William Sanders (Volunteer Fireman) and Mabel Thompson (Police Department).

Twenty Years – Michael Baker (Councilmember).

Twenty - Five Years – Ralph Atkinson (Councilmember) and Bobby Legette (Street Department).

Thirty Years – Alan Ammons (City Administrator).

Forty Years – Aundry Bowens (Volunteer Fireman).

After presenting all of the awards, the fun began with the drawing for door prizes donated by various businesses. Everyone was waiting patiently for the grand prizes; a 40 inch flat screen TV, donated by AWS of Marion and a Trimmer donated by Barry's Outdoors of Mullins. Ms. Heather Evans was the lucky ticket holder of the night. Ms. Evans received the first door prize which was the 40 inch flat screen TV. Interim Chief Dewayne Tennie won the Trimmer.

Mayor Davis thanked all who donated generously to honor the city's employees and guests. What a wonderful and blessed night of fellowship!! Congratulations to all the city employees for your hard work and dedication to the City of Marion.

Coming in April!!!!

April 1st - 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at T D Bank, 307 N. Main Street, Marion. Please join TD Bank and help welcome the new bank manager to town!

April 3rd - Good Friday. City offices closed.

April 5th - Easter Sunday

April 11th - 11:00 a.m.- 11:00 p.m. **American Cancer Society Relay for Life**, Withlacoochee Park.

April 13th - 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. **Shred Day**, Behind Baxley Hardware's parking lot.

April 13th - 6:30 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE** City Council Meeting. Council Chambers.

April 14th - 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. City Council Election. Remember to go out and cast your **VOTE!!! IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENT.**

April 15th - 11:00 a.m. **Denim Day Event**; call 423-7117 for information.

April 16th-18th - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Living History Days.** Marion County Museum, Exhibits and displays featuring various historical periods. For information call the Museum at 423.8299.

April 18th - 5:30 p.m.– 8:00 p.m. **HMRA Frogmore Fest** (Low Country Boil) Fund Raiser. Historic Marion Square (E. Dozier and Court Streets) with musical entertainment and alternate menu selection for non-shrimp eaters. \$15 with adult beverages for purchase. Family fun for everyone!

April 25th - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **The Community Farmer's Market** reopens for the season through December. Stop by and get your locally grown, baked or hand-made items from The Community Farmer's Market...Downtown Marion, 109 Bobby Gerald Parkway, Something special going on every weekend...don't miss it! For information call, 843.610.6246

April 27th - Business After Hours at Marion Emporium.

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Mr. Michael Steinbar of 104 Wall Street has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for March 2015. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. Steinbar will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, **843-423-5961**, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Bobby L. Davis**, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Pam Jones**, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Ficik**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Ann Jackson**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dewayne Tennie**, Interim Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Cindy Barr**, Captain (843) 423-8602
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Chris McKenzie**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Alemeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Francis Marion Memorial Service

State legislators have deemed that on the anniversary of his death, South Carolina's famed "Swamp Fox," Gen. Francis Marion, should be remembered and honored. A wreath-laying was conducted on Feb. 27 at the foot of Marion's statue on Main Street, honoring the Revolutionary War hero. Shown in the photo are Bettise Davidson, Regent of the Blue Savannah-Swamp Fox Chapter of the S.C. DAR, and members of the Hugh Giles' Regiment Britton's Neck militia reenactors, Denley Caughman and Earl Spivey.



Questions or to share information for the Swamp Fox Scene, please email vnichols@marionsc.gov

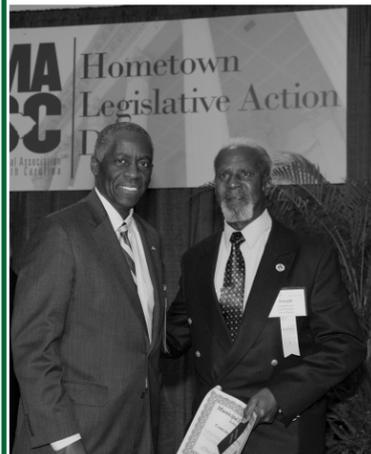
Save the Date!!!
Annual Foxtrot Festival
May 14-16

Brown is city's employee of the Month

Marion City Treasurer Patricia Brown was selected as the February 2015 Employee of the Month. Patricia was hired in 2001 and is responsible for administering the financial activities and programs of the City, including the receipt, disbursement and accounting of City revenues and expenditures. "The quality of her work is exceptional, and she gets along well with everyone", said City Administrator Alan Ammons.



Mayor Bobby Davis and City Council recognized Patricia Brown for her service and dedication to the City of Marion at the March 10th Council Meeting.



Councilmember Joseph Frazier Graduated From Municipal Association

Councilmember Joseph Frazier graduated from the **Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government** on February 4. Mr. Frazier received his certificate during the Municipal Association of South Carolina's **Hometown Legislative Action Day**.

Established in 1986, the Institute is a program of the **Municipal Association of South Carolina** that gives municipal officials a strong foundation in the operation of local government. Participants learn about the role of elected officials and administrative staff and the relationships municipal officials have with other local governments, the state and federal government. The Institute includes two daylong sessions and three evening sessions.

"For almost 30 years, the Association has encouraged local elected officials to participate in the Institute, whether they are newly elected or have served for a while," said Miriam Hair, executive director of the Municipal Association. "This Institute gives elected leaders with diverse personal and professional backgrounds an understanding and overview of the details of running a local government."

Officials participate in more than 25 hours of classroom work in order to graduate from the Institute. Highlights of topics covered during the sessions include the Freedom of Information Act, ethics and accountability, budgeting, planning and zoning, human resources and economic development.

The Institute draws its faculty from recognized local government leaders in South Carolina and other states, state officials, faculty and staff of the state's colleges and universities, and other guest lecturers.

In 2013, the Association began offering its' first credited, **Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government**.

The **Advanced Institute** begun in 2014, provides elected officials who have graduated from the MEO Institute with an option for continuing education through classroom instruction, interaction with experienced peers and case studies.

Congratulations Mr. Frazier, we here at the City of Marion are very proud of you.

Happy 30th Birthday to American Cancer Society's Relay for Life

In May 1985, Dr. Gordy Klatt walked and ran for 24 hours around a track in Tacoma, Washington, ultimately raising \$27,000 to help the American Cancer Society fight the nation's biggest health concern cancer. A year later, 340 supporters joined the overnight event. Since those first steps, the Relay For Life movement has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, raising nearly \$5 billion to fight cancer.

To do our part in helping raise money, Marion County Relay for Life is set for Saturday, April 11th at Withlacoochee Park in Marion from 11:00 a.m. to 11:p.m. Our theme this year has everything to do with the 80's so get dressed in your 80's garb and come have fun. The opening ceremonies will begin at 11:00 a.m. We will have a Survivor Lap, Caregiver Lap and introduction of the teams during this ceremony. So please come out and help us get this kicked off Marion County Style. We have 22 teams this year that include, social clubs, churches, civic organizations and individuals, so be prepared for good food, great entertainment and all that goes with having fun. All money raised during the 12 hours of relay goes towards helping to fight cancer and find cures. Once the sun goes down we will begin our Luminaria ceremony. The plan is to start that between 8:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. If you would like to purchase a Luminaria bag, for \$10, in honor or in memory of someone you can contact Debbie Erwin at 843-260-4483 or email her at foreverdebe@yahoo.com or go to www.relayforlife.org/marionsc and fill in the info online. If you are a Cancer Survivor please come out and join us. We will have a special area set up for you to be able to relax and enjoy the festivities.

Legislative Resolutions

Representative Wayne George and Senator Kent Williams recognized the Chamber's Small Business of the Year, Zeman's Electric; the Chamber's Community Service Recipient, Dr. Johnny Whittington and Taylors Barber Shop for 100 years of business in Marion with Legislative Resolutions on Monday, March 30th.



City's Logos - The City of Marion has flags and umbrellas with the City's logos available at City Hall. Anyone who wishes to purchase one of these items, please contact City Hall at (843) 423-5961. Prices are: Small flags (garden) \$15.00, Large flag (3x5) \$75.00, umbrellas (stadium) \$20.00.

Keep Marion County Clean in the Annual Spring Cleanup!

Join us May 4 - 8, 2015

Each Community is invited to participate in this year's Spring Cleanup! We are looking for volunteers to help. So organize your church, civic or youth group to come out and enjoy giving back.

For More information on volunteering, supplies or having items picked up, call Environmental Services at 843-423-8234.

A Marion County Beautification Commission Partner

Marion Recreation 12 and under Girl State Championship Again



The City of Marion 12 and under girls All Star basketball team defeated Clemson to win the South Carolina Athletics Program State Championship on March 14th. This is the second straight state championship for these girls. The 12U girls were coached by Tiffany McCummings and Tonya Riggins.

The City of Marion 10 and under girls were the first runner up for the District Championship, losing to Mullins on March 14th. The 10U All Star girls were coached by Lakeisha Pee, Kimberly Elliott and Shelley Marsh.



The City of Marion 12 and under boys finished their season as the State First Runner Up, losing in the State Championship game to Cheraw on March 14th. The 12U boys were coached by Harold Graham, Jeffery Gurley and Chris Cross.

The City of Marion 17 and under boys' All Star basketball team defeated Clemson to win the South Carolina Athletics Program State Championship on March 14th. The team were coached by Kendrick Reaves and Michael Knight.

We are very proud of all of our Marion coaches and players! They all have put in a lot of work, practice and dedication to this season. There have been a lot of memories made this year. We look forward to seeing what next basketball season holds. Congratulations to all the teams for an awesome job!!! We are proud of you☺



Mayor Bobby L. Davis, City Administrator Alan Ammons, Marion City Council and Marion Residents.

Marion High Swamp Fox Varsity Wrestling Team!!!

During the March 12, 2015 City Council meeting, the Marion High Swamp Fox Varsity Wrestling Team was recognized for winning the Region 8-2A Wrestling Championship. In the Class A/2A State Championship competition, Swamp Fox Captain Ta'Jon Jordan captured the State Title in the 152 lb. class and was recognized with a City of Marion engraved Foxhead. Also in the Class A/2A State Championship competition, teammate Harold Mearite placed 2nd in the 195 lb. class, Dilan Gillard placed 3rd in the 113 lb. class and Troy Vick Timmons, Jr. placed 4th in the 120 lb. class and each received an Achievement Award medal from the City. Congratulations on your accomplishments! The City of Marion and our residents are proud of you!!



Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is FREE of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

Ping Pong Club

Don't forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.

Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

Yoga classes set

Yoga classes are offered each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the fire department sub-station on Senator Gasque Road. Taught by Judy Johnson and Frances Bethea, the classes are \$5 each or \$30 per month. For information or details, call the Recreation Department at 423-5410.

City rentals available

Need a place to have your class reunion, family reunion, church social, or to have a party? We have the perfect location for you, whether an outdoor or indoor event from our picnic shelter or our recreation and fine arts center. Anyone interested in these locations for their events should call Cheryl Askins, 423-5410 for availability.

Check us out online!

The City of Marion Recreation Department is on Facebook and online. For information and updates on games scheduling, cancellation and pictures. Visit the www.marionsc.gov web site. Find us under "Residents" and then click on "Recreation". To Find us on Facebook, visit **Marion Recreation Department!**

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.